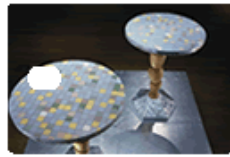


Exhibition: The Furniture Society Toronto, 2000

July 2002



The Furniture Society (www.furnituresociety.org) is a tax-exempt organization founded in 1996 to advance the art of furniture making by inspiring creativity, promoting excellence and fostering an understanding of this art and its place in society. The members rank amongst the top master craftspeople working today.

In 1999 FS Trustee, furniture maker Peter Handler of Philadelphia (www.handlerstudio.com) approached Wilsonart Laminate to sponsor the Society's annual conference. Wilsonart was looking for a sponsorship opportunity that truly supported progressive design and innovative exploration of decorative laminate.



The result was a collaboration in which a dozen American and Canadian furniture makers, who do not usually use laminate, were invited to produce a single piece exploring the material. Handler challenged the artists to investigate laminate as a surface material, to challenge their thinking of surface and to incorporate the brown edge in their pieces so it actually became an integral part of the design. The outcome was a smashing collection of pieces that pushed the perception of what could be accomplished with laminate could be.



One of the twelve pieces was a cabinet by Silas Kopf, an American Mastercraftsman. Kopf is well-known for his marquetry work incorporating wood and other materials. Laminate was a new medium for him, but since it is a veneer material he quickly adapted it to his work. The result was a cabinet with a marquetry self portrait in which myriad shapes were cut out of solid color laminates and inlaid into a trompe l'oeil self-portrait. The rest of the cabinet was covered with repeated text that created an overall pattern.



The Canadian artist Petra de Mooy created a case-piece constructed of vertical boxes faced in a wavy patterned custom laminate of her own design. This piece looks decisively modern in contrast to many of the other art-furniture pieces.

Other designers in the exhibition included Patty Johnson, Scott Eckert, John McKinnon, Scot Laughton, Gord Peteran, Peter Fleming, and Andrew Jones Dates.

In June of 2003 the Society will host another conference in Philadelphia where we will have an opportunity to see more pieces of creative craftsmanship using modern materials as well as [lift chairs](#).

